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DEPARTMENT OF STATE OPERATIONS CENTER
TWA HIJACKING WORKING GROUP
SITUATION REPORT NO. 24
SITUATION AS OF 1700 EDT JUNE 25, 1985

The situation in Beirut remained unchanged throughout the day. The aircraft with the crew aboard is still at Beirut airport. To the best of our knowledge the rest of the hostages are still being held in Beirut, contrary to indications that surfaced in the press that some may have been moved to Baalbek. Further unconfirmed press reports suggest that Amal leader Nabih Barri will be traveling to Damascus in the near future, although he did not go there today.
(CONFIDENTIAL)

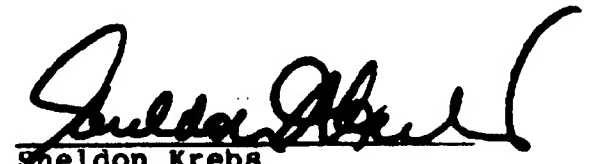
A Spanish court sentenced two Lebanese who had been convicted of attempting to murder a Libyan diplomat last September to 23 years in jail. The release of these two prisoners had been one of the hijackers' original demands. (UNCLASSIFIED)

AP reports that gunmen guarding the TWA aircraft at Beirut Airport fired for several minutes at journalists watching from the terminal building. No casualties were reported. (UNCLASSIFIED)

According to press reports, Amal reacted to reports the USG was weighing closure of Beirut airport or economic sanctions against Beirut by warning that if the US imposed a siege on Beirut, the hostages would be returned to the original hijackers of the airliner. (UNCLASSIFIED)

The British and Italian ambassadors in Beirut apparently met separately with Barri today. We have no readout yet on the meetings, but the press reported that the Italian Ambassador conveyed his country's concern at the continuing detention of the hostages. Embassy Beirut is seeking information on these meetings and is also seeking a meeting with the Algerian Ambassador. (CONFIDENTIAL)


Grant Smith
Co-Coordinator TWAHWG


Sheldon Krebs
Senior Watch Officer

State Dept. review completed

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